

A new species of *Tapinocyba* (Araneae, Linyphiidae) with a redescription of *Tapinocyba minuta* (Emerton)

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ABSTRACT

The identity of *Tapinocyba minuta* is clarified by examination of the type-series and the species is redescribed and illustrated. *Tapinocyba prima* new species, a distinct species previously confused with *T. minuta*, is also described and illustrated. Collection data, habitat and distribution are given for the two species. *Tapinocyba prima* new species has a widespread northern distribution with possible disjunct populations found at high elevations on the East Coast, while *T. minuta* has a more restricted distribution along a trans-continental boreal corridor.

Key words: Taxonomy, Canada, U.S.A., northern distribution, disjunct distribution

INTRODUCTION

Based on the comparison of published figures, Koponen (1992) suggested that Crosby and Bishop's (1933) illustrations of *Tapinocyba minuta* (Emerton 1909) did not match Emerton's original figures of description and therefore, may have represented a different species. It appears that James H. Redner, arachnologist at the Canadian National Collection of Insects and Arachnids (CNC, Ottawa, Canada), also suspected some confusion around the identity of *T. minuta* and the species illustrated by Crosby and Bishop, as he labelled vial racks in the CNC as: *Tapinocyba minuta* (Emerton 1909) and *Tapinocyba minuta* "Crosby & Bishop 1933". Crawford in Buckle *et al.* (2001) was aware of the problem and stated "The figures, being from different angles, provide insufficient basis for such a decision" meaning that the available information did not allow to conclude if the species illustrated by Crosby and Bishop and *T. minuta* of Emerton 1909 are conspecific or not.

Recently, Paquin & Dupérré (2003) published an identification guide to the known and suspected spiders of Québec that included illustrations of *Tapinocyba minuta* (Emerton